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Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78T05439A000400130055-7

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NPIC/R-802/64

August 1964

TCS-7818/64

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5 Pages

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

ELECTRONIC RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT SITE,  
KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA  
MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR



CIA



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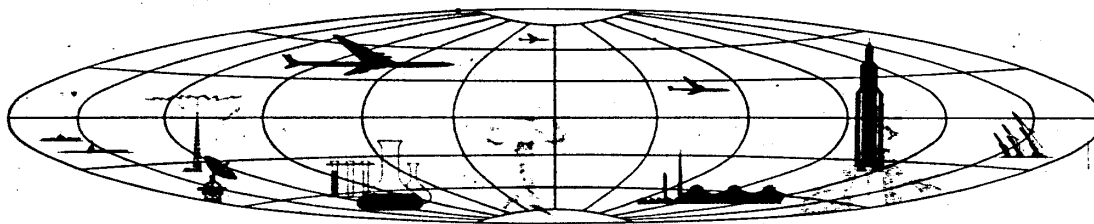
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## ELECTRONIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SITE, KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

### INTRODUCTION

This report, prepared in response to a CIA requirement, describes the chronological development and present appearance of an electronic research and development site at the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (Figure 1). One of the electronic facilities at this site is an elevated platform structure which is similar to facilities noted earlier at the Leningrad probable antimissile-missile (AMM) launch complexes.

The principal photographic source on the site is [REDACTED] Prior

photographic coverages, although used in preparing the chronological development of the installation, are of poor quality and scale; these limitations are at least partially responsible for an apparent lack of noticeable activity or change between subsequent missions. However, careful analysis suggests that a number of changes involving antennas/electronic equipment have taken place since initial construction of the site began sometime after [REDACTED] and that the site has a research and development function.

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### DISCUSSION

#### General Description

The electronic research and development site (Figure 2) is one nautical mile north of Kapustin Yar Airfield at 48-41-10N 45-43-30E. The road-served site is almost completely surrounded by a double firebreak and includes 2 elevated platforms, 4 radar mounds (presently unoccupied), 4 hardstands (one with an unidentified antenna), a possible communications facility, 2 positions (one of which is revetted) for unidentified equipment (possibly antennas), a 5-building support facility with 2 open storage areas, and numerous tracks and borrow pits. No security measures have been noted.

Initial ground scarring in the area was first observed on photography of [REDACTED] and the site in its early stages of development was seen in [REDACTED]

At that time, the site was only about half its present size, and included a probable TALL KING on each of four radar mounds, a possible TOKEN radar on the most easterly (at the time) of two hardstands (the other hardstand being empty), and two unidentified equipment (possible antenna) positions. A year later [REDACTED], none of the aforementioned antennas were present, with the single exception of one possible antenna at an unidentified equipment position.

Throughout the development of the site, the support facility has changed very little in overall appearance; small amounts of equipment have been moved into and out of the open storage areas. The area that is now considered to be a possible communications facility was first noted in [REDACTED] as an unidentified activity; three new apparent

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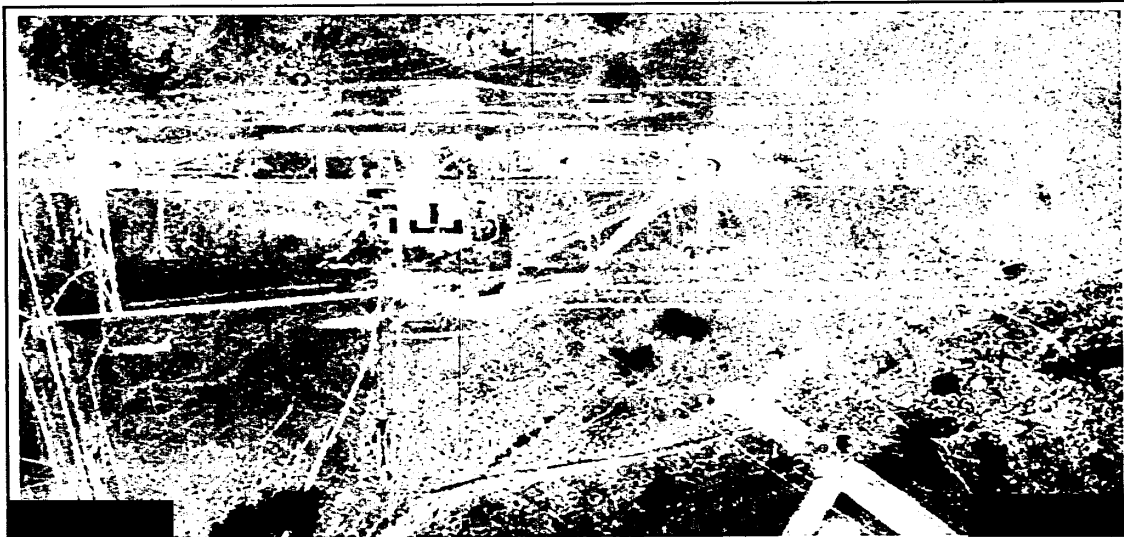
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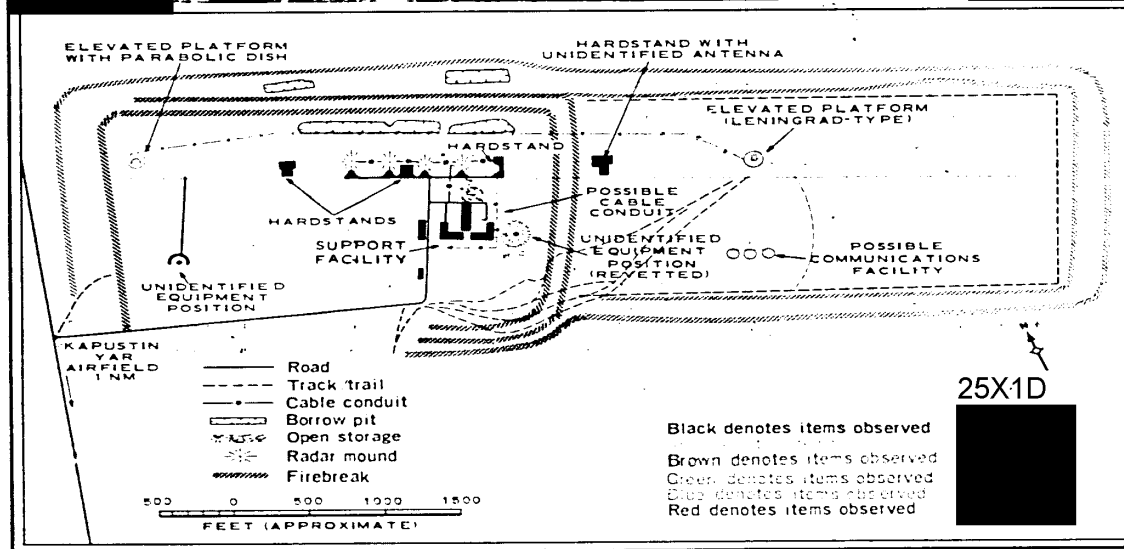


FIGURE 2. ELECTRONIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SITE.

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Table 1. Chronological Development of Electronic Research and Development Site, Kapustin Yar, Vladimirovka  
Missile Test Center, USSR

Mission	Date	Changes noted since prior Mission
25X1D		None
		Initial ground scarring
		Site, about half its present size, was road served and almost completely surrounded by a double firebreak. It contained 4 radar mounds with probable TALL KING, 2 hardstands (one containing a possible TOKEN), 2 positions (one revetted) containing unidentified equipment (possibly antennas), 5 support buildings, an open storage area, and numerous tracks and borrow pits
		Site had been expanded to its present size by an extension of the main road to the east. Three new borrow pits were visible. An area of unidentified activity was noted east of the support facility
		The double firebreak had been extended to enclose the eastern extension of the site and a new hardstand was visible west of the support facility
		No apparent change
		The Leningrad-type elevated platform structure was first observed under construction. Its circular shape could be detected, but it did not appear to have any height. A possible cable conduit extended from the south portion of the support facility to the vicinity of a hardstand by the main site road
		No apparent change
		No apparent change
		No apparent change
		Ground scars were observed at the western end of the site where the second elevated platform structure was soon to be constructed. A new open storage area was visible southeast of the support facility
		A cable conduit connecting the two elevated platform structures and the support facility indicated the possible operational status of the two structures. The four probable TALL KING and the possible TOKEN were not visible
		A new hardstand with an unidentified antenna had been installed to the east of the others
		The area of unidentified activity to the east of the support facility (first observed on [REDACTED]) appeared to have been mounded and could be a possible communications facility. Overall, the site appeared to be complete
		No apparent change
		No apparent change

25X1D mounds were observed on coverage of [REDACTED]

25X1D Complete details of the chronological development of the site are given in Table 1.

## Elevated Platform Structures

25X1D An elevated platform structure, similar to those noted at the Leningrad probable AMM launch complexes, 1/ 2/ is situated approximately 2,000 feet east of the support facility and was first observed in an initial construction stage on photography of [REDACTED]

25X1D Although the structure could have been complete enough to be operational as early as [REDACTED]

25X1D [REDACTED] when the cable conduit connecting it to the support facility was first observed, this

25X1D development was not apparent until the good-quality photography of [REDACTED] was available. It is still not certain whether the structure should be considered complete or whether additional work remains to be done.

This Leningrad-type structure consists of what appears to be a circular platform approximately 150 feet in diameter, and about 30 feet above the ground. Centrally located on this platform is a small circular tower which is approximately 25 feet in diameter and 15 feet high.

In general appearance and diameters (but not heights) the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka structure compares favorably with those noted

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at the probable AMM launch complexes near Leningrad, as indicated below:

	Lower platform		Upper tower	
	Diameter (ft)	Height (ft)	Diameter (ft)	Height (ft)
Kapustin Yar Vladimirovka	150	30	25	15
Leningrad	150	70	28	35

Since the structure at the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka site was under construction in [REDACTED] and possibly operational by [REDACTED] it is feasible for this site to have served in a research and development capacity for the probable AMM facilities near Leningrad, where the majority of the structures were first noted in their present form on photography of [REDACTED]

Another structure, consisting of a possible 65-foot-diameter circular platform 40 feet above the ground, is visible at the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka site on photography of [REDACTED]. Construction of this structure, first noted in [REDACTED] could have been completed by [REDACTED] but poor-quality photography precludes an accurate chronological re-counting of its development. It appears to be operational at present, however, having on its elevated platform a parabolic dish antenna that is approximately 40 feet wide and 15 feet high; these measurements closely approximate those of a TOKEN radar.

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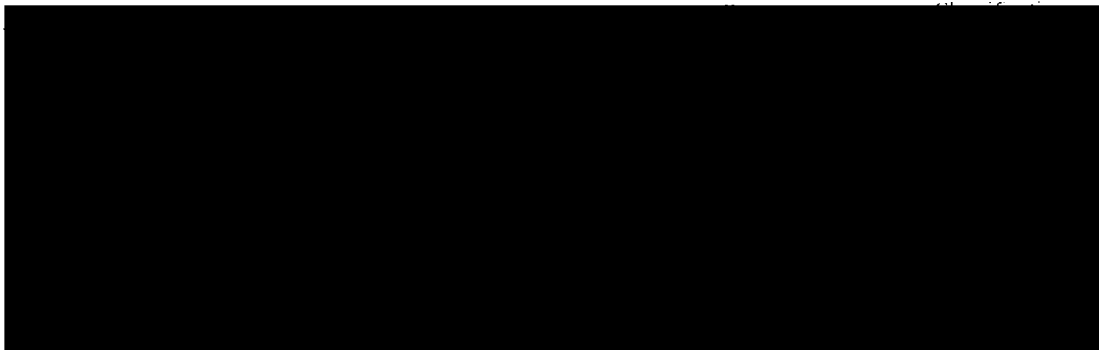
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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

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DOCUMENTS



REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR4-81.572  
NPIC PROJECT  
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